

4        a set of communications servers coupled to the set of  
5        switches for receiving the set of incoming call signals, each  
6        communications server being coupled to a network and containing a  
7        message processing resource configured to process a received audio  
8        message into a digital representation;  
  
9        where a switch in the set of switches redirects an incoming call  
10      signal from a first communications server to a second  
11      communications server if a first condition occurs.

1        20. (New) The system of claim 19, where the first condition  
2        occurs if the first communications server sends a rejection signal  
3        to the switch.

1        21. 3 (New) The system of claim 19, where the first condition  
2        occurs if the first communications server is unable to process the  
3        incoming call signal.

1        22. 4 (New) The system of claim 19, where the incoming call signal  
2        signals an incoming call and the first condition occurs if the  
3        first communications server is unable to process the incoming  
4        call.

1        23. 5 (New) The system of claim 19, further comprising a system  
2        management unit for setting the first condition.

1        24. 6 (New) The system of claim 19, further comprising a system  
2        management unit, and the first condition occurs if the system  
3        management unit determines that the second communications server  
4        should receive the incoming call signal.

1 25. (New) The system of claim 19, where the set of switches  
2 includes a second switch, and the first communications server is  
3 coupled to the switch and the second communications server is  
4 coupled to the second switch.

1 26. (New) The system of claim 25, where the switch redirects the  
2 incoming call signal to the second switch.

1 27. (New) The system of claim 19, where the incoming call signal  
2 includes an inbound address and each communications server further  
3 comprises a trunk line interface to extract the inbound address  
4 and the message processing resource is further configured to  
5 determine, based on the inbound address, a user account and a  
6 destination on a packet switched network and send the digital  
7 representation to the destination.

1 28. (New) The system of claim 27, where the inbound address is a  
2 circuit destination address.

1 29. (New) The system of claim 27, where the message processing  
2 resource is further configured to validate the inbound address.

1 30. (New) The system of claim 19, where the audio message is a  
2 facsimile message and the digital representation of the audio  
3 message is a graphics file.

1 31. (New) The system of claim 19, where the message processing  
2 resource further comprises a processor to:

3 determine if the audio message contains a facsimile message  
4 or a voice message; and,

5 digitize the audio message if the audio message contains the  
6 voice message and receive the facsimile message if the audio  
7 message contains the facsimile message.

*SUB C3*  
*B*  
1 32. (New) A method comprising:

2 receiving a first incoming call signal destined for a first  
3 communications server for processing of an audio message into a  
4 digital representation;

5 determining if a first condition has occurred;

6 redirecting the first incoming call signal from the first  
7 communications server to a second communications server based on  
8 the determining of the first condition.

*14*

1 33. (New) The method of claim ~~32~~, where determining the first  
2 condition includes determining that the first communications  
3 server sends a rejection signal.

*15*

*13*

1 34. (New) The method of claim ~~32~~, where determining the first  
2 condition includes determining that the first communications  
3 server is unable to process the incoming call signal.

*16*

*13*

1 35. (New) The method of claim ~~32~~, where the incoming call signal  
2 signals an incoming call and determining the first condition  
3 includes determining that the first communications server is  
4 unable to process the incoming call.

1 36. (New) The method of claim 32, where determining the first  
2 condition includes determining that a system management unit  
3 selects the second communications server for receiving the  
4 incoming call signal.

1 31. (New) The method of claim 32, where redirecting the first  
2 incoming call signal includes using a switch to redirect the first  
3 incoming signal from the first communication server to the second  
4 communication server.

1 38. (New) The method of claim 37, where the incoming call signal  
2 includes an inbound address and the method further including:

- 3 extracting the inbound address;
- 4 determining, based on the inbound address, a user account and
- 5 a destination on a packet switched network; and,
- 6 sending the digital representation to the destination.

1 39. (New) The method of claim 38, where the inbound address is a  
2 circuit destination address.

1 40. (New) The method of claim 38, further including validating  
2 the inbound address.

1 41. (New) The method of claim 32, where the audio message is a  
2 facsimile message and the digital representation of the audio  
3 message is a graphics file.

1 42. (New) The method of claim 32, further including:

*B*  
2 determining if the audio message contains a facsimile message  
3 or a voice message; and,

4 digitizing the audio message if the audio message contains  
5 the voice message and receiving the facsimile message if the audio  
6 message contains the facsimile message.

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